

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 21, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5 remain in this application, where claims 4 and 6 have been canceled by this amendment without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such

amendments to claims 1-3 and 5 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,138,540 (Kobayashi). Further, claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kobayashi. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 5 are patentable over Kobayashi for at least the following reasons.

Kobayashi is directed to a variable light distribution type vehicle headlamp which provides an optimum irradiated beam pattern under all driving conditions. A lens drive mechanism controls the position of a movable lens in both X and Y directions so as to respectively control the amount of beam diffusion and beam direction in accordance with the vehicle speed and steering direction.

As correctly note on page 4 of the Office Action, Kobayashi does not disclose or suggest a lens array comprising a plurality of lenses. It is alleged that this would be an obvious duplication of

the Kobayashi lens.

It is respectfully submitted that duplication of the Kobayashi lens to yield two or more lenses would increase the size of the Kobayashi headlamp.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

a lens array comprising a plurality of lenses located substantially around said respective central axis, and  
means for moving said lens array with respect to said generating means by a reduced distance relative a distance a single lens is moved by an increased distance, the single lens having a same size as the lens array and generating a same light effect when the single lens is moved by the increased distance and when the lens array is moved by the reduced distance, so that a size of the floodlight is reduced as compared to a single lens floodlight for generating the same light effect.

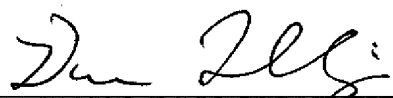
These features are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Kobayashi. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3 and 5 should also be allowed at least based on

their dependence from amended independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 5, 2008

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